

2026 Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference



Nashville, TN

www.tnota.org







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for Certification in
Occupational Therapy

CANNATA & COMPANY

COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL STRATEGIES



WILLIAM CAREY
UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT *of* OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY



THANK YOU!



Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program

2026 TNOTA CONFERENCE



OT in a Changing World

Agenda

- About TNOTA
- TNOTA officers
- Upcoming election
- Membership & treasury report
- Committee reports
- Legislative report
- District reports
- TNOTA Programs
- Tennessee Occupational Therapy Foundation
- TNOTA Hall of Fame Recognitions
- Closing announcements and adjournment



Vision

TNOTA is the primary resource, authority, and public voice for the profession of Occupational Therapy in the state of Tennessee.

Mission

TNOTA strives to advance Occupational Therapy in Tennessee through education, advocacy, communication, and legislative involvement to support the provision of high-quality occupational therapy services and promote the benefits of our profession to consumers, stakeholders, and legislators in Tennessee.

TNOTA seeks to -

- Provide professional support to our members and advance the profession through communication, education, and advocacy
- Understand and represent member interests and concerns
- Improve the quality of occupational therapy services in TN
- Enhance consumer health and wellbeing through promotion of best practices in occupational therapy in Tennessee
- Represent occupational therapy to the public and promote the benefits of our profession to consumers, stakeholders, and legislators in Tennessee

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TNOTA Board Members:

Elected Positions

Stephanie Lancaster,
EdD, OTR/L, ATP

President

Valery Hanks,
OTR/L, C/NDT,
CPAM

Vice President

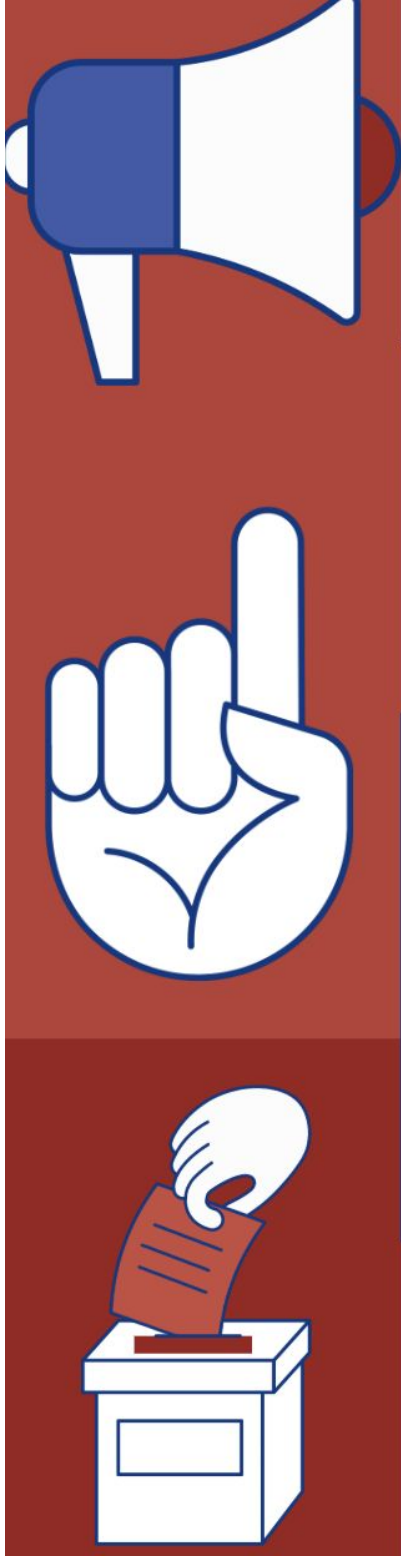
Nicole Ayers,
COTA/L

Secretary

Christine Watt,
PhD, OTR/L

Treasurer

Upcoming Election



**TNOTA IS SEEKING
NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE
BOARD POSITIONS**

Nomination period: Oct. 1-31

Voting period: Nov. 9-30

Open positions:

- President-Elect
- Vice President
- Treasurer

TNOTA
Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association

www.tnota.org

**TNOTA Conference
2026**

Did You Know ...

TNOTA does a lot more than host an annual conference.

Advocacy work impacting the OT profession
begins and ends with TNOTA

Your membership helps give OT a collective voice, one
that is heard by people across the state and further.

TNOTA is run largely by OT practitioners and students
volunteering their time.

There are many opportunities for engagement with
TNOTA for people at all levels of experience.

TNOTA will start new volunteer advancement
programming in January 2027, matching established
TNOTA leaders with new/prospective volunteers on
short-term projects within the association.



Strengthening TNOTA's Foundation

Updated
bylaws

SOP
updates
coming Oct.
2026

Clarifying roles &
responsibilities

Creating greater
consistency &
transparency

Supporting
continuity from
one leader to the
next

Building a
stronger
organization for
the future



Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association

Capstone Partnership Program



**TNOTA now offers opportunities for OTD students
to work with a TNOTA leader for a Doctoral
Capstone Experience (DCE).**

**Interested? Visit our website or
email president@tnota.org**

TNOTA
Programs

www.tnota.org



TNOTA Recurring Continuing Education Courses

Check the TNOTA Events Calendar for information about:

Physical Agent Modalities (PAMs) Certification Training

Ethics & Jurisprudence in Occupational Therapy

Suicide Prevention Training

Please contact admin@tnota.org with questions!



TNOTA
Programs

www.tnota.org

TNOTA Conference
2026



Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association

**provides opportunities for members to
gather participants for their research.**



TNOTA members can fill out a [TNOTA Member Research Request Form](#) to have research project information posted in the monthly newsletters and on the website.

 **www.tnota.org**

TNOTA
Programs

www.tnota.org

**TNOTA Conference
2026**



CONTINUING EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP



33
pre-recorded
courses

Courses available on
demand - free for
TNOTA members!

New and
Updated
Programming

www.tnota.org



OT Membership
\$80
OTA Membership
\$60

Value of TNOTA Membership

	Member Cost	Non-member Cost	Annual Savings
Conference Registration	\$320	\$380	\$60
Ethics & Jurisprudence (2 contact hours, required biannually)	FREE	\$20 x 2 = \$40	\$20
Suicide Prevention (2 contact hours, required every 4 yrs.)	FREE	\$20 x 2 = \$40	\$10
Continuing Education (virtual & in person + asynchronous via Aspire OT)	FREE	\$20/contact hour	Endless Value

Exclusive access to
Member Portal on
the website

Advocacy to protect
our professional
interests

Engagement in
Communities of
Practice

Voting (and running)
in TNOTA elections

Participation in
Mentorship
program

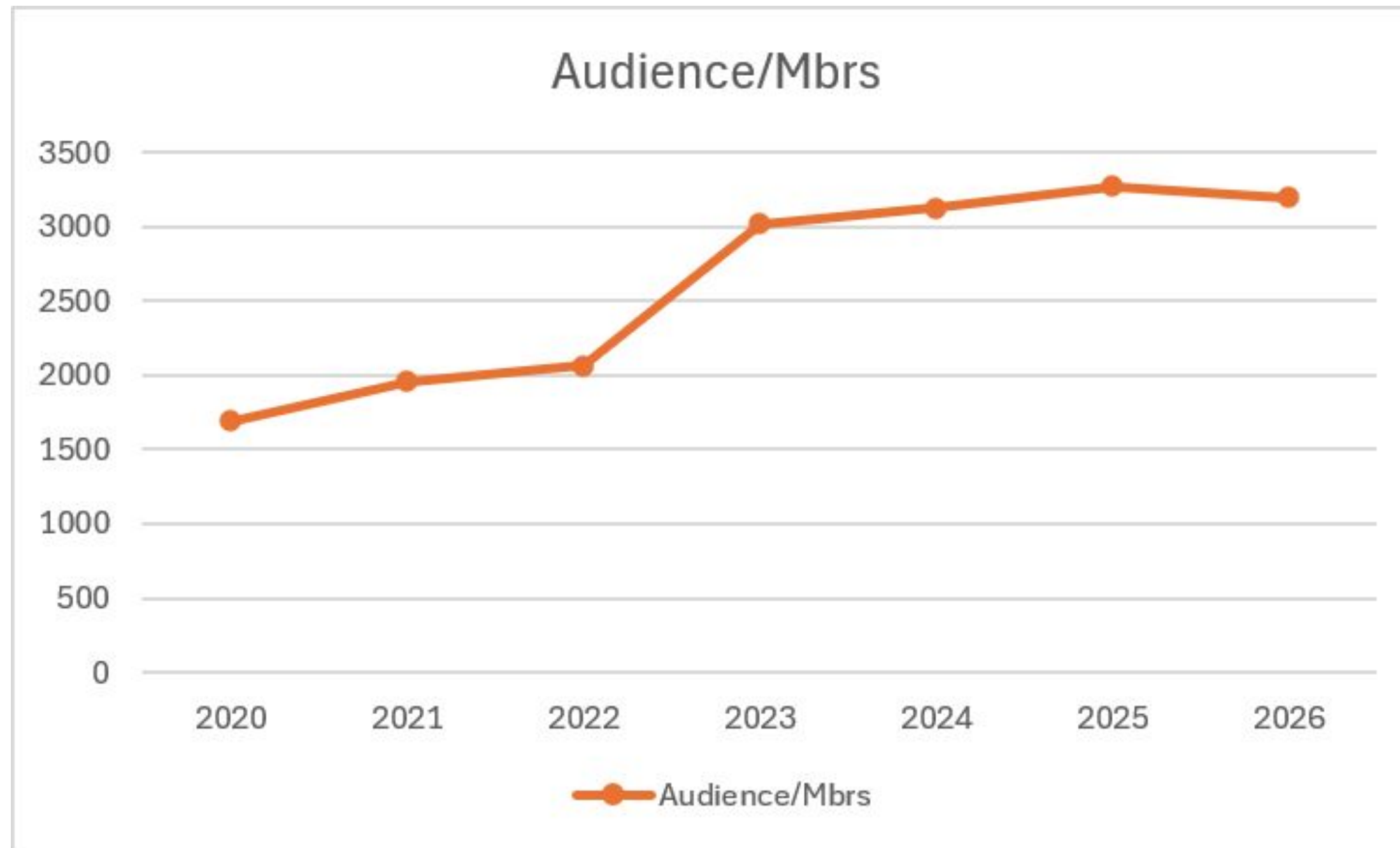
Access to TNOTA
leadership & staff via
email and phone

Membership Report

9/1/2025 - 8/31/2026
(compared to 2023-2024)

1st Yr. OT	22 (-12)
OT	402 (+10)
1st Yr. OTA	9 (-2)
OTA	68 (-13)
Retired	1 (-1)
Student	333 (-)
Total members	835 (-38)
Total audience	3,196 (-7)

Five-Year Total Membership Trend



Financial Report



Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association





Investment Summary



CANNATA & COMPANY

COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL STRATEGIES



Who We Are

Cannata and Company was founded in 1992. Our family practice is located in the suburbs of Chicago and assists individuals, families, businesses, and organizations develop comprehensive financial strategies based on unique goals, needs, and objectives.

- Family Focused
- Boutique Service
- Tailor Made Solutions
- Easy to Reach



Jack P Cannata, CPA, CFP®



Lindsey A. Cannata, CFP®



Joshua P. Cannata, ChFC®



Nicole M. Cannata- Scola

Investment Allocation from Investment Policy Statement

	<u>Range</u>	<u>Current Allocation</u>
Cash	5% to 10%	5%
Bonds	30% to 50%	40%
Stocks	40% to 60%	50%
Real Estate	0% to 10%	5%

Summary of Investment Account

- \$100,000 invested
- Mix of low-cost mutual funds selected
- Account to be rebalanced on a quarterly basis
- Annual investment review meeting
- Monthly and quarterly statements provided
- Online access

Cannata & Company Contact Information

Mailing address:
25 E. Main Street
Suite 202
Roselle, IL 60172

Phone: 847-318-0700

Email: Lindsey@cannataandcompany.com

Securities offered through Arkadios Capital, member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory services offered through Arkadios Wealth. Financial planning services offered through Cannata and Company. Cannata and Company and Arkadios are not affiliated through any ownership.



Thank you!

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Account Snapshot

	2025	YTD 2026
Checking Account	\$203,853.02	\$145,474.63
Money Marketing Account	\$combined	\$100,000.00
Total Assets	\$203,853.02	\$245,474.63



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9/1/25 - 8/31/26 Revenue

Conference	\$46,146.00
Advertisements & Miscellaneous	\$691.00
Continuing Education	\$25,991.00
Membership Dues	\$50,279.00



9/1/25 - 8/31/26 Expenses

Annual Conference	\$18,773.00
Continuing Education (primarily speaker fees)	\$16,113.00
Miscellaneous (insurance, bank fees, etc.)	\$1,968.00
Operations & Activities + Foundation	\$2,934.00
Legal and Professional Fees	\$32,475.00
Operating Expenses	\$2,382.00
Board Meetings & Travel	\$6,891.00



August 2026 Financial Report

Income	\$26,342.58
Expenses	\$4,473.51
Highest Income Item	\$19,283.24 (conference)
Highest Expense Item	\$2,375.00 (pro. fees)



Net Income:
\$21,869.07

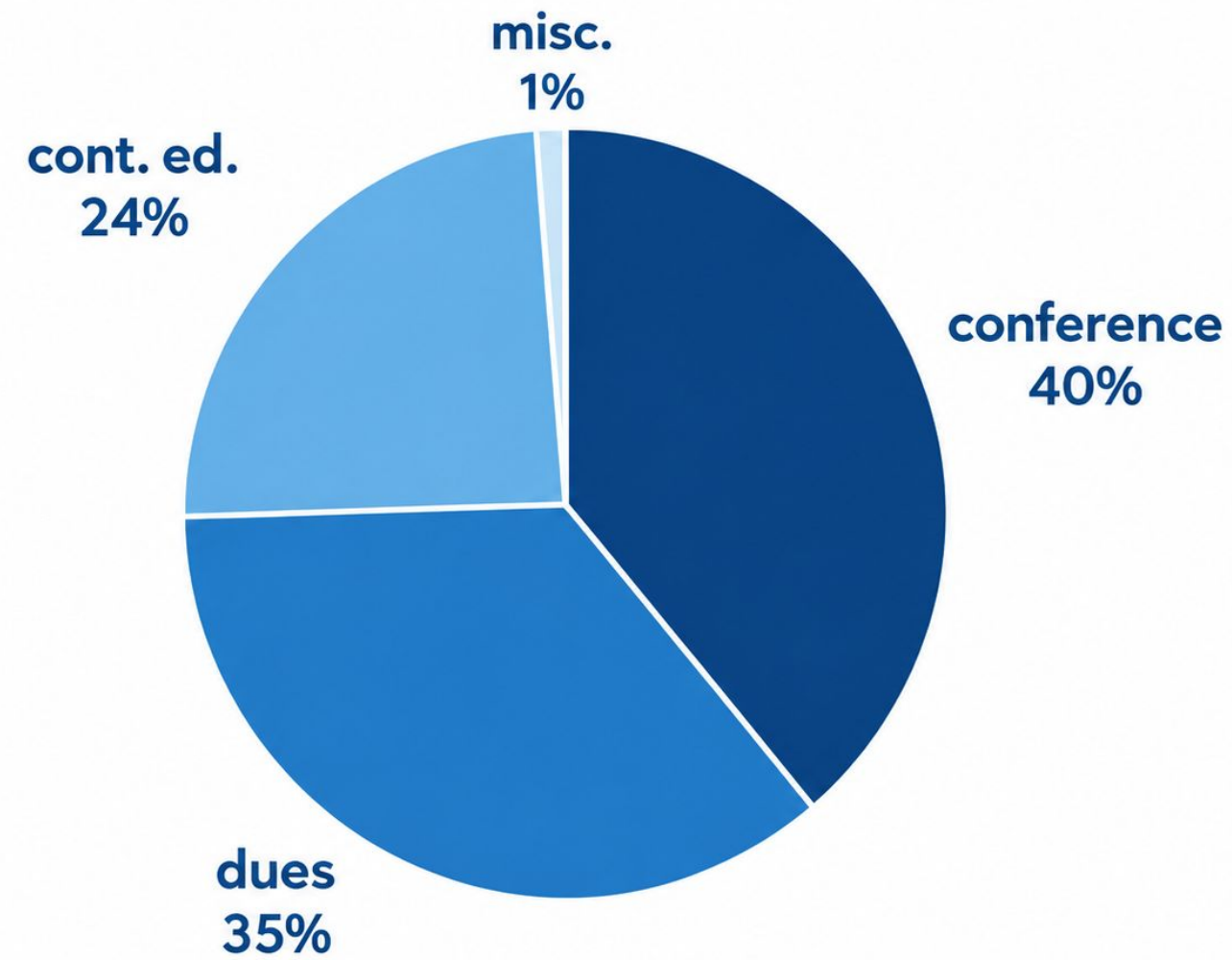
YTD Income:
\$80,245.47

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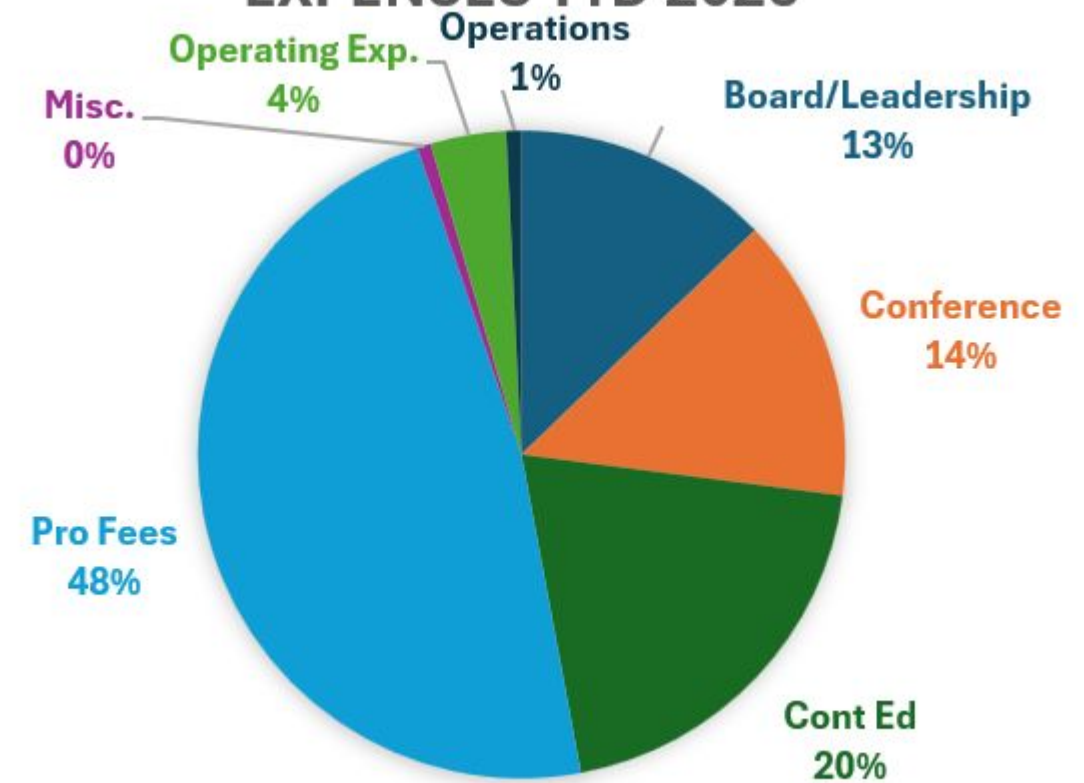


Aug. 2026 Financial Report

Revenues YTD 2026



EXPENSES YTD 2026





TNOTA *Committees*



Advocacy



Conference



**Continuing
Education**



**Diversity &
Inclusion**



Mental Health



Mentorship



OTA Connect



**Student
Involvement**

Student Involvement Committee



Priorities

- **Strengthen student–practitioner** connections by bringing together OT practitioners and OT/OTA students to advocate for, support, and facilitate student success.
- **Develop meaningful student-focused initiatives** including programs, presentations, and resources that support students' professional growth and transition into practice.
- **Increase student engagement and membership in TNOTA** by creating accessible opportunities for students to connect with the state association and the OT profession.
- **Elevate the student voice within TNOTA** by creating opportunities for students to participate, contribute, and build leadership experience.

Annual Accomplishments

- **Held quarterly Student Involvement Committee** meetings via Zoom to coordinate initiatives and engage representatives across OT/OTA programs.
- **Provided one year of complimentary TNOTA membership** to elected student representatives from each OT/OTA program.
- **Hosted the Student Lounge at the TNOTA Annual Conference**, sponsored by ETSU SOTA, creating a dedicated space for student connection and engagement.
- **Expanded opportunities for student participation in TNOTA** through conference programming, student representation, and association involvement.



OTA Connect Committee

Priorities

- Provides a supportive and collaborative connection point for current and future OTAs
- Disseminate information on topics including regulations for supervision, development of the OT and OTA relationships, and best practices in the field for Occupational Therapy Assistants
- Strives to improve OT/OTA collaboration at the educational level

Short-term Goals

- Seat a chairperson.
- Revive the committee with a fall meeting for interested parties.
- TNOTA President will work with new chair to determine committee goals in alignment with TNOTA's strategic plan.
- Have at least one representative participating in the annual strategic planning meeting in January

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Scan the QR code to indicate interest.



Mental Health Committee

Priorities

- Suicide prevention training and other educational courses
- Support for mental health OT practitioners
- Advocacy for OT's role in mental health treatment

Annual Accomplishments

- Expanded suicide prevention training
 - Continued bimonthly schedule for suicide prevention training
 - Providing 7 suicide prevention training courses in 2026
- Provided continuing education course
 - Restoring Meaning after Trauma
- Connected Mental Health Community of Practice members to resources and mentorship
- Supported TNOTA legislative advocacy related to the Occupational Therapy in Mental Health Parity Act (with the TNOTA Advocacy Committee)
- Provided representation for mental health advocacy during TN Hill Day
- Supported a Belmont University capstone student January - April 2026
- Potential capstone student starting January 2027



Mentorship Committee

Priorities

- Revitalize the program through simplifying the user experience, and building a new, energized committee
- Continue increasing participation and expand mentorship across TN
- Explore research opportunities

Annual Accomplishments

- Our 7th cycle of 5 mentor-mentee pairings begins 9/19. This is our first year to have a significant number of OTA mentees!
- 7th cycle recruitment was challenging; we expanded recruitment efforts working with TN OT colleges/universities to directly reach recent grads
- Collaborating with the Ohio & Illinois Mentorship Programs
- Doubled our committee members to include recent mentorship participants
- Simplified participant documentation as result of feedback
- Drs. Iliff, Stewart, and Eades continue our IRB approved research efforts; survey data analysis and manuscript generation within next 6 months
- Dr. Sue Iliff will assume co-chair position from Dr. Stewart

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Co-chairs: David Eades, Alison Stewart, & Sue Iliff



Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Priorities

- Host a minimum of two DEI specific CE events per year
- Develop and disseminate resource tools and guides on the TNOTA Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) website
- Increase committee membership including student members. We represent all areas of diversity, and all are welcome

Annual Accomplishments

Completed and Upcoming Activities

- **Continuing Education:** *Beyond Accessibility: Confronting Healthcare Barriers Faced by People with Disabilities* - Ashley Hankin, October 2025
- **Interview with the AOTA President:** Dr. Arameh Anvarizadeh, February 2026
- **Cultural Humility Presentation** - September 19, 2026
- Additional educational and professional development activities planned for late 2026 and early 2027

Ongoing Initiatives

- Continue hosting district-level community meetups
- Developing an online DEI forum/resource page

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Continuing Education Committee

Priorities

- Approved CE Course Program, through which the committee reviews continuing education courses for approval with TNOTA
- Committee members review course, and if approved, it can be advertised as approved by TNOTA
- 1-2 courses approved per month
- Once approved, approval lasts for one year and is listed on the TNOTA website

Annual Accomplishments

- Approved CE Course Program
 - We reviewed and approved 13 courses in 2025
 - We have reviewed and approved 11 courses so far in 2026 with 3 currently under review
 - Our committee has grown this year and we have a mixture of OTRs, OTAs, practitioners, and educators, making it a robust group!

www.tnota.org



Communications Committee

Priorities

- Develop and coordinate communication strategies across multiple platforms.
- Promote member engagement and highlight the value of TNOTA membership.
- Share advocacy, educational, conference, and organizational updates.
- Celebrate member accomplishments and spotlight the impact of occupational therapy in Tennessee.
- Recommend improvements to communication processes and outreach efforts.
- Coordinate with the TNOTA Board, committees, and staff (as appropriate) to ensure consistent messaging.

Annual Accomplishments

- This committee was formed in August 2026 and has opportunities for additional volunteers.
- The committee has three initiatives:
 - Newsletter revamp
 - Social Media content enhancement
 - Annual report development

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Legislative Report



CAPITOL & 5TH
PUBLIC STRATEGIES

- August Primary Election Results
 - Governor
 - Legislative turnover
- Leadership changes in the legislature
- Wins from 2026 legislative session
 - Licensure board autonomy
 - Firearm questions in health care
- Looking ahead to 2027
 - Advocacy Opportunities

Allie Jones, Senior Associate

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State Legislation Update: Advocacy Recap

TNOTA Legislative Chair: Cindy Blackwell, OTD, OTR/L

- Legislative successes:
 - securing the independence and autonomy of the OT licensure board amidst consolidation efforts
 - advocating against a bill restricting healthcare providers' ability to ask their clients about firearm possession.
- Legislation championed by TNOTA several years ago resulted in the modernization of the Tennessee OT Practice Act- in June 2026, the OT licensing board officially adopted those rules.
- TNOTA continues to collect stories from members/stakeholders to fight for increased reimbursement rates for TennCare payers.

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Advocacy Committee

Monitor → Educate → Mobilize → Influence

Priorities

- Legislative and regulatory advocacy
- Member grassroots engagement
- Public/Professional Awareness

Annual Accomplishments

- Hosted an annual CE event in October open to all stakeholders
- Development of advocacy resources
- Facilitated OT Hill Day on Feb. 25, 2026, in collaboration with our lobbyist (16 meeting, 55 attendees)
- Provided webinars for Hill Day Information Meeting (Feb. 2026) and Hill Day Recap (April 2026)



CAPITOL & 5TH
PUBLIC STRATEGIES

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Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association

Day on the Hill

Spring 2027

TNOTA will again host a Day on the Hill to unite in community and to advance our advocacy efforts and engage in the legislative process. This event will include statewide virtual and in-person events in Nashville and at the State Capitol.

More details coming soon!



SCAN HERE

<https://tinyurl.com/Hill2027>

Federal Legislation Update: Issues Being Followed by TNOTA + AOTA's Federal Affairs Department

TNOTA Legislative Chair: Cindy Blackwell, OTD, OTR/L

- OT Licensure Compact continues to expand to additional states
- Compact privileges began in TN in May 2026.
- OTP licensed in TN as their home state can apply for privileges to practice in other states where the Compact has also launched (currently Minnesota, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland).
- Get more updates on this at www.otcompact.org



www.tnota.org



Federal Legislation Update: Issues Being Followed by TNOTA + AOTA's Federal Affairs Department

TNOTA Legislative Chair: Cindy Blackwell, OTD, OTR/L

- Watching changes in federal Department of Education (ED)
 - advocating for the ED to remain a unified agency
- Medicare coverage of OT for mental health conditions
 - Mental Health Parity Act & LHHS funding bills
 - improve outreach and education for OT as a treatment for MH & substance use disorders
- Advocating for protection of non-partisan research grants and federal funding processes (NIH, NIDILRR)

Federal Legislation Update: Issues Being Followed by TNOTA + AOTA's Federal Affairs Department

- Medicare Part B funding-
 - expecting an increase to OT reimbursement rates- **WIN**
 - proposed changes to beneficiary access to OT services (remote therapeutic monitoring)
 - can trickle down into state-level Medicaid access rules
 - advocate for continued reimbursement of caregiver training services
- State level- AOTA working with states + PT/SLP coalitions to develop resources and advocate against cuts to OT medicaid coverage and reimbursement rate

Federal Legislation Update: Issues Being Followed by TNOTA + AOTA's Federal Affairs Department

AOTA Advocacy Resources

- [AOTA Legislative Action Center](#)
- [AOTA Advocacy resources](#)

TNOTA Philanthropy Partnership

2026-2027 TNOTA PHILANTHROPY PARTNER



CRUMLEY HOUSE BRAIN INJURY REHABILITATION CENTER

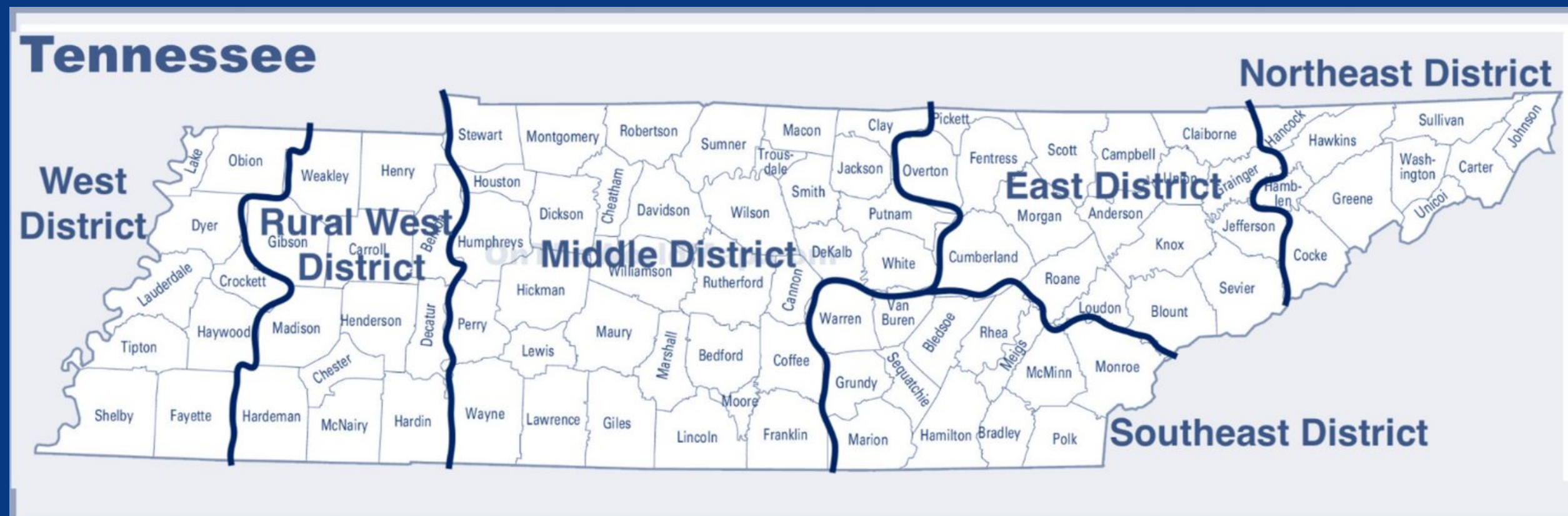
A non-profit organization dedicated to supporting survivors of traumatic brain injuries. Crumley House offers programs for long-term residents of Crumley House as well as individuals enrolled in the day programs

TNOTA Philanthropy Coordinator: Cindy Hickman

Past philanthropy partners:

- Brightstone
- Gigi's Playhouse
- Parkinson's Foundation - Tennessee Chapter
- Special Olympics Tennessee
- TSU Tiger Rehab Clinic
- UTHSC Rachel Kay Stevens Therapy Center

District Leadership



West District

Evelyn Daniel (Chair)

Rural West District

Barbara Meussner

(Chair)

Kaylie Garner

(Vice Chair)

Deana Kendall

(Secretary)

Sandy Dicks

(Treasurer)

Middle District

Gigi Jordan

(Chair)

Alyssa Campbell

(Vice Chair)

East District

Julia Johnson

(Chair)

Kelly Wright

(Secretary)

Northeast District

Jennifer Crowder

(Chair)

Russell Ball

(Vice Chair)

Hannah Dougherty

(Secretary)

Southeast District

Martin Davis

Bhumika Patel

(Co-Chairs)

Anna Fung

(Vice Chair)

Tabitha Gibbs

(Secretary)

TNOTA West District

District Leadership

- M. Evelyn Daniel-Curtis, OTR/L, CHT

Priorities

- Facilitate networking and professional development for occupational therapists and occupational therapy students.
- Coordinate education events.
- Increase awareness of health disparities in an urban setting.

Annual Accomplishments

- 2 CE events this year; 3 Upcoming in 2027:
 - July 14, 2026: **Rehabilitation and Health Equity: Lessons from Church Health** (live webinar, presented by Kevin Gibson, PT)
 - November 12, 2026 : **Ethics and Jurisprudence in Occupational Therapy** (live, presented by Dr. Stephanie Lancaster and M. Evelyn Daniel-Curtis) -this will also serve as a professional networking opportunity



TNOTA Rural West District

District Leadership

- Barbara Meussner (Chair)
- Kaylie Garner (Vice chair)
- Deana Kendall (Secretary)
- Sandy Dicks (Treasurer)

Priorities

- Advocate for OT access and client-centered care.
- Expand innovative OT practice, supporting mentorship and fieldwork education.
- Provide relevant CE and professional development.
- Increase OT visibility and community partnerships.

Annual Accomplishments

- Held our **6th** Annual Compliance Day in November.
- Hosted our **6th** PAMS course.
- Supported programming and enhancements across Tennessee for non-traditional OT practice.

★ **Provided local continuing education opportunities:**

1. Assistive Technology for the Related Service Provider
2. Maximizing Bimanual Outcomes in Infants and Children with Hemiparesis
3. Becoming a Mentorship-Driven Fieldwork Educator



TNOTA Middle District

District Leadership

- Gigi Jordan, OTD, OTR/L (Chair)
- Alyssa Campbell, OTR/L (Vice Chair)
- Open position (Secretary)

Priorities

- Continue to foster a student community of support for OT & OTA students in the greater Nashville area
- Coordinate a community volunteer event for Middle District members each year

Annual Accomplishments

- Surviving to Thriving: Practical Strategies for Clinical Reasoning in School Based OT Practice (August CE event)
- Nashville Volunteer Event 11/7: 7:30-10am @ Maplewood High School with OneGen Food Pantry. Registration info coming soon!

www.tnota.org



TNOTA East District

District Leadership

- Julia Johnson (Chair)
- Kelly Wright (Secretary)

Priorities

- Advocate for greater East TN District membership and involvement
- Facilitate networking and professional development for occupational therapy practitioners and students in the district
- Facilitate desired education events and collaborate with OT and OTA schools and other organizations in the East TN District
- Support students and early-career practitioners through mentorship
- Coordinate 1 service-related community event by East TN District Members

Annual Accomplishments

- Working towards a fully staffed district team! (Welcome Kelly!)
- District Strategic Planning Meeting for CE planning)

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TNOTA Northeast District

District Leadership

- Jennifer Crowder DSc, OTR (Chair)
- Russell Ball (Vice Chair)
- Hannah Dougherty (Secretary)

Priorities

Create positive connections for district OT practitioners and students to facilitate increased engagement

Annual Accomplishments

- In person OT Compliance Day (Suicide Prevention & E&J) at end of 2025
- Welcomed a new vice chair - Russell Ball
- Ongoing efforts to increase engagement with district members including initiation of district focused emailed communication
- As home district to this year's philanthropy partner, volunteer efforts in support effort of Crumley house, in collaboration with the Philanthropy Committee



TNOTA Southeast District

District Leadership

- Martin Davis, MS, OTR/L, CSRS (Co-Chair)
- Tabitha Gibbs, MSOT, EdD (Secretary)
- Bhumika Patel, MS, OTR/L (Co-Chair)
- Anna Fung, OTD, OTR/L (Treasurer)

District Priorities:

- Promote membership, engagement, and education across Southeast TN.
- Foster networking and professional development for OTs, OTAs, and students.
- Provide relevant educational opportunities.
- Collaborate with OT programs and organizations in the district.

Annual Accomplishments:

- Fully staffed district team!!
- Hosted annual PAMs course (June)
- **Local CEU Events:**
 - *Supporting the Supporters: Practical Strategies for Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Educators* (Taylor Kozell, OTD, OTR/L, CBIS, CNS, PAq)
 - *Advocacy In Every Setting* (Tabitha Gibbs, MSOT, EdD)
 - *Effects of Long COVID: Implications for Occupational Therapy Practice* (Jenna Hopkins, MOT, OTR/L)
- 46 total attendees



TNOTA Student Board Members

Each OT and OTA program in the state is eligible to select a current student to serve on the board.

- Belmont University - Kelsey Kennedy
- East Tennessee State - Kristin Soderberg
- Lincoln Memorial - Rachel Palmer
- Milligan University - Annie McDermott
- Nashville State Community College - CJ Johnson
- Roane State - Nolan Ellis
- South College-Nashville - Daylee Scudder
- Tennessee State University - Mikayla Gale
- Tennessee Wesleyan - Sydnee Duncan
- Univ. of TN-Chattanooga - Jamison Cowart
- Univ. of TN Health Sci. Ctr. - Hanna Saxon
- Walters State - Mackenzie Stephens

TNOTA
Communities
of Practice



Tennessee Occupational Therapy Foundation (TNOTF)

The foundation is a non-profit organization established in 2019.

Its mission is to support OT & OTA students through the awarding of scholarships and the community through volunteer services.

TNOTF Scholarship Recipient



Aubrie Baird

ETSU OTD % 2029

- Current working as a CNA (certified in CPR)
- Recognized by Tennessee Healthcare Association for commitment to long-term care
- Volunteered with the Special Olympics and special needs camp.
- Completed an unpaid internship focused on underserved children, providing services both at home and in the classroom.

2026 TNOTF Student Scholarship

TNOTF Scholarship Recipient

Maggie Davidson

ETSU OTD % 2027

- SOTA President and Vice President
- Served as a student representative for both AOTA and TNOTA.
- Currently working as a rehab tech
- Served as a camp buddy at inclusive camps and volunteers at hippotherapy clinic and the ALS clinic at ETSU.
- CPR/AED/BLS and MoCA certified
- Presenting a poster at conference this year!

2026 TNOTF Student Scholarship



TNOTF Excellent Educator

Dr. Don Lewis, OTD, MBA-HCM, MS, OTR/L

ETSU OTD Program Director



“What truly sets Dr. Lewis apart; however, is his consistent commitment to his students' success. He invests his time, energy, and expertise into helping his students reach any goals they are aiming to achieve. Then, when those goals are achieved, he is the first to celebrate alongside them. His investment and encouragement in my success has made a lasting impact on my academic and professional journey.”

“Dr. Lewis has also been a highly supportive instructor that I and my classmates have been able to confide in when life is chaotic and overwhelming. It is extremely evident that Dr. Lewis loves what he does and can be seen in his actions everyday. I do not think I would still be in the OTD cohort I am in without Dr. Lewis's support. Dr. Lewis deserves to know how much he means to everyone.”

“He exceeded expectations and went way above his calling for us students. Nobody made him do that. It would be perfectly acceptable if he would have told us what material to read out of the textbook and left it all in the classroom. The thing is though-he didn't. He carried our burdens with him day in and day out and did his absolute best to set us up for success. I could not say enough good about Dr. Lewis and what he does for both the fellow faculty and us students. He is way more than just a professor to us.”







Lift As You Climb Award

Recognizes a TNOTA member who actively supports, mentors, and elevates others in a way that supports the mission of TNOTA, while advancing their own career

Barbara Meussner

Distinguished OTA Practitioner Award

Honors an occupational therapy assistant who demonstrates excellence in practice, leadership, and contribution to the OT profession, particularly in a way that supports the mission of TNOTA

Gwen Foxx

Lifetime Impact Award

Recognizes an experienced OT practitioner whose sustained contributions have had a lasting impact on the profession, community, and/or TNOTA

Cindy Blackwell

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TNOTA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



TNOTA is looking for additional volunteers to join our leadership team. Commitment times vary but are usually no more than a few hours per month. Training and mentorship will be provided as needed. Volunteers earn CE credit for their work with TNOTA.

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Email president@tnota.org if interested!

Get involved
with TNOTA!

More details will be provided at the
Leadership Panel Q & A session
today at 1:30 p.m.!

TNOTA Volunteer Opportunities

Elected Positions

- President-Elect
- Vice President
- Treasurer

District Team Roles

- West District – Vice Chair & Secretary
- Middle District – all roles

TNOTA will start new volunteer advancement programming in January 2027, matching established TNOTA leaders with new/prospective volunteers on short-term projects within the association.

Committee Positions

- Communications Committee Members - Social Media Content Creators & Newsletter Contributors
- Conference Committee
- OTA Connect Committee Chair and Members - Members may be OTs or OTAs; the chair needs to be an OTA
- Advocacy Committee Co-Chair and Members
- Diversity & Inclusion Committee Members
- Academia Community of Practice Co-facilitator
- Academic Fieldwork Coordinator/Capstone Coordinator Community of Practice Facilitator

www.tnota.org



Newsletter Naming Competition

Open to **OT AND OTA** STUDENTS

All submissions are
due by Oct. 4th!

The winner of the contest will
receive a year of complimentary
membership in TNOTA!



Valery Hanks, TNOTA Vice President & Conference Committee Chairperson

www.tnota.org



Scan the code below for CE credit for this session.

2026 TNOTA CONFERENCE



OT in a Changing World

